

Mid-Michigan Innovation Alliance



Mid-Michigan has a stark choice -- to become a center of innovation or to begin a spiraling decline. Mid-Michigan was once the golden triangle of General Motors (GM). Anchored by Flint, Lansing, and Saginaw, the region was the home of many assembly plants and their suppliers. Workers in these jobs enjoyed high wages and benefits for many years.

In recent years, globalization has had a tremendous impact on the region. After many years of losing market share, the U.S. owned auto industry is in dramatic decline. The October 2005 bankruptcy filing by Delphi Corporation is the most recent symbol of this decline. Delphi is the world's largest automotive parts supplier and a GM spin-off. It employs thousands of people in Mid-Michigan and thousands more in area supply firms. In December 2005, GM announced significant plant closings in the region as well. This will result in the dislocation of thousands of people across the region.

Mid-Michigan sees participation in the U. S. Department of Labor's Workforce Innovation for Regional Economic Development as a critical element in building its future. Federal support of this type is essential to leverage state, local, private and philanthropic resources.

Mid-Michigan's strategy is to build on the research and development of its universities to create and build new technologies to encourage new companies and new jobs across the region. The development of an alternative fuels industry holds the promise of an entirely new sector for the state's economy. These alternative fuels are important to a high quality of life for all U. S. citizens, and are important to the Mid-Michigan Region as it works to transform its regional economy.

Mid-Michigan has a history of entrepreneurs. It was the home of Billy Durant, R.E. Olds, Alfred P. Sloan, Charles Stewart Mott, and Alden Dow. Resources to assist entrepreneurs to grow and develop new companies are a key element of this project. This network will provide tools, access to capital and other resources.

Mid-Michigan has a strong base of knowledge and infrastructure in manufacturing. Thus a key element of the proposal is the transformation of automotive supplier firms once tied to GM to new manufacturing markets that are growing. This will be done by working with firms to assess their capabilities, identifying areas of opportunity, and embarking on improvements with the retraining of their incumbent workforce at the core.

Continued on back



EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ADMINISTRATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Not all sectors of the economy are declining. Health care and construction continue to grow and are experiencing labor shortages. Sector based regional skills alliances focused on these critical areas are underway and will be expanded.

Mid-Michigan's project has an array of strategic partners including: Michigan State, Saginaw Valley, and Kettering Universities; Mott, Delta, and Lansing community colleges; North Coast Ventures; Charles Stewart Mott Foundation; Center for Automotive Research; major health care systems; home and building associations; intermediate school districts; Michigan Manufacturing Technology Center; the State of Michigan; and regional cities, chambers of commerce, economic development agencies, Michigan Works! agencies, and community development agencies.

These partners combine to leverage over \$35.7 million.



EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ADMINISTRATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR